

July 30, 2003
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-- REMARKS --

Claims 15-28 remain under consideration.

A. Claims 12, 26, and 27 were objected to as not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126.

The Applicant has amended claims 16-28 herein. Withdrawal of the objections under 37 CFR 1.126 to the previously misnumbered claims 12, 26, and 27 as renumbered claims 26, 27, and 28 is therefore respectfully requested.

B. Claims 16-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Applicant has amended claims 16-28 herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 16-28 now depend from independent claim 15. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 16-28 under §112 is respectfully requested.

C. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by any one of US Patent number 5,425,302 to *Levrai*, et al, US Patent number 5,794,506 to *Inoue*, et al, US Patent number 5,884,548 to *Ando*, et al, US Patent number 5,943,937 to *Endo*, et al, Japan 10230841, and Applicants admitted prior art (FIG. 1).

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The rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as clearly anticipated by *Levrai, Inoue, Ando, Endo*, Japan 10230841, and Applicants admitted prior art (FIG. 1) is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant has amended claim 15 herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention. For a 102(b) rejection to stand, each and every limitation contained in the instant application must be disclosed in the reference. The references do not disclose each and every limitation in the amended claim 15. Therefore, *Levrai, Inoue, Ando, Endo*, Japan 10230841, and AAPA cannot anticipate the instant invention.

The rejection of claim 15 as anticipated by *Levrai, Inoue, Ando, Endo*, Japan 10230841, and Applicants admitted prior art (FIG. 1) is respectfully traversed. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 under §102(b) is respectfully requested.

D. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by US Patent number 6,192,783 B1 to *Tobisawa*.

The rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as clearly anticipated by *Tobisawa* is respectfully traversed.

The Applicant has amended claim 15 herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention. For a 102(e) rejection to stand, each and every limitation contained in the instant application must be disclosed in the reference. The reference does not disclose each and every limitation in the amended claim 15. Therefore, *Tobisawa* cannot anticipate the instant invention.

The rejection of claim 15 as anticipated by *Tobisawa* is respectfully traversed. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 under §102(e) is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

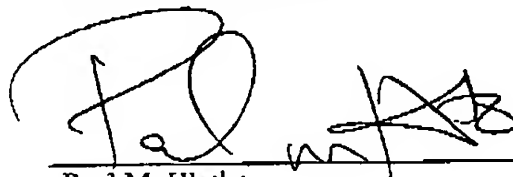
Examiner Lopez's rejections of claims 15-28 have been obviated by amendment to claims 15-28 and by Applicant's arguments. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15-28, as amended, herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§102, 103 and 112, as well as 37 CFR 1.126. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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ANNOTATED SHEET
SHOWING CHANGES

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Fig. 1.

PRIOR ART

